

WHAT IS CLAIMED:

1.-4. (Canceled)

5. (Previously Presented) A method of forming manganese chloride comprising the step of reacting a manganese metal powder with hydrogen chloride under anhydrous reaction conditions, wherein at least some of the hydrogen chloride is dissolved in an ether solvent.

6.-7. (Canceled)

8. (Previously Presented) A method of forming manganese chloride comprising the step of reacting a manganese metal powder with hydrogen chloride under anhydrous reaction conditions, wherein the solvent is selected from the group consisting of ethers, dimethyl ether (DME), butyl ether, amyl ether, d-n-butyl ether, glyme polyethers, diethylene glycol methyl ether (DGME), triethylene glycol dimethyl ether (triglyme), diethylene glycol dimethyl ether (diglyme), 1,2-dimethoxyethane (glyme), Cetaner (a blend of 96% glyme and 4% dimethoxymethane), ethylene glycol mono-tert-butyl ether, ethylene glycol mono-n-butyl ether, carbonates, dimethyl carbonate, diethyl carbonate, di-acetates, ethylene glycol acetate, acetals, dimethoxymethane (DMM or methyl-al), 2-ethylhexylacetate, esters of plant oils, esters of animal oils, and methyl soyate.

9. (Canceled)

10. (Previously Presented) A method of forming manganese chloride comprising the steps of:
- providing manganese metal powder;
  - providing hydrogen chloride;
  - reacting the manganese metal powder with the hydrogen chloride under anhydrous reaction conditions;
  - wherein the reaction conditions comprise a reaction temperature in the range of about 50°C to about 200°C; and
  - further wherein at least some of the hydrogen chloride is dissolved in an ether solvent.